

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/621,445
Response filed May 10, 2005
Reply to OA dated January 10, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application, of which claims 3, 5, 8, 9, and 12-31 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 1 and 7 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to claim 7 for an informality which has been corrected in the aforementioned amendments.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,862,077 to Horel et al. (hereinafter "Horel et al.").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Horel et al. discloses a probe card apparatus and method which allows reconfiguration of the probing circuits. A first probe card 30 member has a plurality of incomplete probing circuits which are associated with a plurality of contact holes. An adapter ring member 33, having a plurality of T-shaped conductive lines terminated in contact holes, is removably mounted in close proximity to the first probe card member 30. Spring-loaded contact pins provide contact between the members such that the T-shaped conductive lines are used to complete the probing circuit. The T-shaped conductive lines are severable lines, and discrete electronic components E1, E2, E3, E4 can be connected between respective contact holes. As the adapter ring member 33 is of a removably attachable construction, the entire probe card circuitry is reconfigurable by a simple change of the adaptor ring.

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The Examiner has urged that element E4 corresponds to the “capacitor embedded in a resin insulation layer” recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Applicants respectfully disagree. “E4” represents an electronic component, which is not necessarily a capacitor, which “can be soldered on the top surface of the adapter ring 33 between the contact hole 53' and the central ground region 46”, as disclosed in column 11, lines 3-6. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the capacitor 20 is embedded entirely within resin insulation layer 14, as shown in Fig. 4.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to clarify this distinction, and the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Horel et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, Horel et al. fails to disclose that the capacitor is embedded entirely within a resin insulation layer, as recited in the amendments to claim 1, from which claim 4 depends.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Horel et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,548,844 to Fukuzumi et al. (hereinafter “Fukuzumi et al.”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Fukuzumi et al. has been cited for teaching a capacitor having a dielectric film of a complex oxide containing at least one metal element selected from the group of Sr, Ba, Pb, Zr, Mg and Nb, but, like Horel et al. discussed above, fails to teach, mention or suggest the limitations of claim 1, as amended, from which claims 6-7 depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has allowed claims 10-11.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-7, 10 and 11, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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